

Message Text

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14/40

ACTION EUR-12

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P 170838Z JAN 76 CORRECTED COPY FOR MCN
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5696
INFO AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 362

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: GOP TO ACT ON EXPANDED AUTONOMY FOR AZORES

REF: (A) PONTA DELGADA 26 DTG 141734Z JAN 76,

(B) LISBON 272 DTG 141657Z JAN 76

SUMMARY: AZORES JUNTA MEMBER TOLD EMBOFF THAT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WAS EXPECTED TO ACT JAN 16 ON REVISED DECREE-LAW GRANTING THE REGIONAL JUNTA THE AUTHORITY IT HAD REQUESTED. JUNTA MEMBER WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT REVISED TEXT ACCEPTABLE TO REGIONAL JUNTA WOULD BE APPROVED WITHOUT FURTHER CHANGE. NEXT STEP IN EFFORT TO INSTITUTIONALIZE AUTONOMY FOR AZORES WILL BE ENACTMENT OF STATUTE OF AUTONOMY. END SUMMARY.

1. ALVARA MONJARDINO, REGIONAL JUNTA MEMBER FROM TERCEIRA, TOLD EMBOFF JAN 15 THAT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WAS EXPECTED TO ACT TODAY, JAN 16, ON REVISED DECREE-LAW GRANTING JUNTA THE AUTHORITY IT HAD REQUESTED. MONJARDINO SAID REVISED VERSION WAS HAMMERED OUT IN MARATHON SESSION WITH MINISTRY OF INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS JAN 13-14. HE IS OPTIMISTIC THAT REVISED TEXT WILL BE APPROVED WITHOUT FURTHER CHANGE.

2. KEY ISSUE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH LISBON OFFICIALS, MONJARDINO SAID, WAS QUESTION OF GRANTING OF MINISTERIAL-LEVEL POWERS
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TO JUNTA. GOP HAD PREVIOUSLY INSISTED UPON SPECIFIC DELEGA-

TIONS OF AUTHORITY AND PRIOR EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN MINISTRIES
FROM DELEGATIONS.

3. ASSUMING REVISED DECREE-LAW IS APPROVED, NEXT TEST WILL BE
ENACTMENT OF ACCEPTABLE STATUTE OF AUTOMONY. MONJARDINO SAID
JUNTA WILL BEGIN REVISIONS OF PREVIOUSLY-PUBLISHED STATUTE
DURING COMING WEEK BASED UPON PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED THUS
FAR. FOLLOWING APPROVAL BY JUNTA, STATUTE WILL BE
FORWARDED TO LISBON FOR APPROVAL. ASSUMING IT ACCEPTABLE, OPTIONS IN
LISBON INCLUDE: (A) IMMEDIATE PROMULGATION, OR (B) DELAY UNTIL
CONSTITUTION IS APPROVED. CONSTITUTION WILL GIVE GENERAL
OUTLINES OF AUTONOMY FOR AZORES, WITH STATUTE FILLING IN
SPECIFICS. MONJARDINO SAID SECOND COURSE WOULD BE MORE
LOGICAL, BUT THE FIRST WOULD BE PREFERABLE FROM AZOREAN
STANDPOINT. IF STATUTE IS APPROVED IMMEDIATELY BY
REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL IT WOULD HAVE STATUS OF A CONSTITUTION-
AL LAW AND WOULD HAVE GREATER STANDING THAN IF ENACTED AS
A NORMAL LEGISLATION BY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
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